

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Planning staff has prepared the Findings of Fact for the preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 7th Filing and has provided them for review by the Planning Board, as follows:

A. What are the effects on agriculture, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health, safety and welfare? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (a) and BMCC 23-302.H.2.]

1. Effect on agriculture and agricultural water user facilities

The subject property is currently used for agricultural purposes and about 14.5 acres of agricultural land would be taken out of production with this subdivision filing proposal. Perimeter ditches and drains shall remain in place and not be altered by the subdivider or subsequent owners. The subdivision should not affect agricultural water users' facilities but it will take land out of agricultural production.

2. Effect on local services

- a. **Utilities** – Water service will be provided by the City of Billings. The developer will install new water mains in all of the new local streets, new individual services to all of the lots, and new fire hydrants in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Public Works Department, Fire Department and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The water service will be provided by an existing 12-inch water line that is in Rimrock Road and also a 12-inch line stub from Copper Bluffs Circle. The extension of these lines will provide a looped system in the new filing.

Sanitary sewer service will be provided by connecting to the existing City of Billings' sewer mains. There is an existing 8-inch sanitary sewer stub located in Copper Bluffs Circle and also an 18-inch sanitary sewer main located in Rimrock Road. The subdivider shall extend the existing 18-inch sanitary sewer in Rimrock Road west to approximately 70th Street West. The subdivider will install new sewer mains in the local streets and individual services for each lot in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Public Works Department and MDEQ.

A cash-in-lieu contribution for a 12-inch water line and two fire hydrants was made by the subdivider with the Fifth Filing to extend a water main from the existing terminus to the western boundary of Copper Ridge subdivision 5th filing, approximately 860 feet. This contribution will be applied toward the construction of the 12-inch water main to the 7th filing, within Rimrock Road, or be refunded to the developer and the developer will install the water main.

MDU will provide gas services and Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative will provide electric services to the subdivision. Easements have been shown on the face of the plat that are acceptable to these utility providers.

- b. **Stormwater** – Stormwater drainage for the public streets is proposed to be provided by curb and gutters that discharge into storm water pipes and eventually to retention areas in the proposed detention basins along Rimrock Road. These and all other drainage improvements shall satisfy the criteria set forth by the *City of Billings Stormwater Management Manual* and will be subject to review and approval by the City Engineering Department. The developer is proposing to construct 3 large detention basins along the southern boundary of the subdivision. One of those detention basins will be built with this filing and the other two with future filings.

The subdivider may direct runoff from this filings and future filings to the City of Billings storm water detention facility proposed to be built on property at the intersection of Rimrock Road and 62nd Street West. The subdivider shall make a cash contribution to the City of Billings for the stormwater management facility based on a square foot of net residential lot area. The contribution will be worked out between the subdivider and the City of Billings engineering division as outlined in the SIA under Storm Drainage B ii.

- c. **Solid waste** – The City of Billings will provide solid waste collection and disposal. The City’s landfill has adequate capacity for this waste.
- d. **Streets** – Rimrock Road is identified as a collector street at the location of this filing. The applicant will be providing additional right of way for Rimrock Road to meet the required 74-foot-wide right of way, it is currently a 60 foot right of way. Rimrock Road will be completed with a pavement width of 26 feet with borrow ditch swales from the current terminus of pavement to the western boundary of the 7th Filing. The applicant will be making a cash in lieu contribution for the future curb and gutter.

The lots within the subdivision will be served by the construction of Copper View Way, Copper Bluffs Circle and Copper Sunset Drive. They shall all be 34 feet back of curb to back of curb and shall be built to City of Billings street standards. They shall be built to grade with a satisfactory subbase, base course, curb and gutter with asphalt surface. 70th Street West shall be 30 feet of asphalt with a curb and gutter. The curb and gutter will be constructed on the east side of the street at this time. A temporary gravel surface turn around easement will be provided at the northern end of 70th Street West. The applicant will need to submit an easement document with the associated call out on the plat. **(Condition #1)**

The streets are proposed to be built to City standards by providing a 34-foot width, curb/gutters, and boulevard sidewalks. Typically, the sidewalks are installed by the home builder on a lot-by-lot basis, as lots develop. However, boulevard sidewalk along the frontage of Lot 19, Block 1 shall be constructed with the private contract for the subdivision. The boulevard sidewalk along the right of way frontage between Lots 18 and 19, Block 2 shall also be built with the

private contract with this subdivision. The developer will also install all ADA required ramps at the intersections within the proposed subdivision. This information is included in Transportation 3.B. of the SIA.

A Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was completed with this filing in order to evaluate the subdivision's impact on the street network in the surrounding area. Cash contributions will be made for future intersection improvements identified in the SIA under Transportation D. Traffic Control Devices. A proportionate contribution will be made for this 7th filing as described in the SIA.

- e. **Emergency services** – The Billings Police and Fire Departments will respond to emergencies within the proposed subdivision. The nearest fire station is located at 54th St. West and Grand Ave. (Station #7). The subdivision is located within the ambulance service area of American Medical Response (AMR).
- f. **Schools** – School District #2 provides educational services to elementary through high school students. Schools serving these students are Arrowhead Elementary, Will James Middle School, and West High School. At the time of the writing of this staff report there was no response from the schools or district. At the time of the 6th filing Arrowhead Elementary was over capacity, while the other schools were below, but near capacity. Also, the subdivision is currently on a bus route.
- g. **Parks and Recreation** – Residential subdivisions creating lots with housing densities less than one dwelling unit per ½-acre are required by State and local laws to dedicate 11% of the net land area (or provide an equivalent cash contribution) for parkland. With 53 residential lots being created with this filing the required parkland acreage would be 1.115 acres. The applicant is proposing to provide a cash in lieu contribution. **(Condition #2)**
- h. **Mail Delivery** - The United States Postal Service will provide postal service to the subdivision and has indicated that centralized mailbox units will be required as were installed for the previous filings of this subdivision. The developer will need to coordinate mailbox locations with the postal service. **(Condition #3)**

3. Effect on the natural environment

The subject property is currently farmland slightly sloping to the south toward Rimrock Road from the rimrocks near Phipps Park. The property of the 7th Filing is not located within any floodplain. A flood plain from Little Cove Creek touches the extreme south western tip of Lot 4, Block 3, one of the 25-acre future filings but does not go onto the land to be developed in the future. During development, storm water pollution prevention best management practices are required to be used and monitored to prevent erosion on exposed ground. Overall, the effect on the natural environment should be minimal.

4. Effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat

There are no known endangered or threatened species on the property. There is a note in the SIA that warns future lot owners of the presence of deer in the area, which may cause damage to their landscaping. This subdivision should have a minimal effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

5. Effect on the public health, safety and welfare

There will be no impacts to public health, safety and welfare as a result of this subdivision.

B. Was an Environmental Assessment required? [(MCA 76-3-616 and BMCC 23-302.H.1.)]

The proposed subdivision is exempt from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment pursuant to Section 76-3-616, MCA.

C. Does the subdivision conform to the City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy, the 2014 Transportation Plan, and the Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan? [BMCC 23-302.H.4.]

1. City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy

The proposed subdivision is consistent with the following goals of the Growth Policy:

Strong Neighborhoods (livable, safe, sociable and resilient neighborhoods): Neighborhoods that are safe and attractive and provide essential services are much desired (p.8). Zoning regulations that allow a mixture of housing types provide housing options for all age groups and income levels. (p.8)

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options) A mix of housing types that meet the needs of a diverse population is important. (p.9) Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings.

2. Urban Area Transportation Plan 2014

The proposed subdivision adheres to the goals and objectives of the 2014 Transportation Plan and preserves the street network and street hierarchy specified in the plan.

3. Billings Area Bikeways and Trail Master Plan

The proposed subdivision lies within the jurisdiction of the Billings Area Bikeways and Trail Master Plan. A trail corridor exists within parkland dedicated to the City in the previous filings of this subdivision. This trail network will eventually connect the subdivision to a future trail identified in the plan along Cove Ditch to the south and east. There is a short term bike lane identified along Rimrock Road but this subdivision is not required to construct any trails.

D. Does the subdivision conform to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to local subdivision regulations? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (b) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.a.]

The proposed subdivision satisfies the requirements of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to the design standards specified in the local subdivision regulations. The subdivider and the local government have complied with the subdivision review and approval procedures set forth in the local and state subdivision regulations.

E. Does the proposed subdivision conform to all requirements of the zoning in effect? [BMCC 23-302.H.3.e.]

The subject property is located within R-70 and R-50 zoning. The lot sizes conform to the requirements of this zone. Other building setbacks and structure specific requirements will be reviewed for compliance at the time of building permit review.

F. Does the proposed plat provide easements for the location and installation of any utilities? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (c) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.b.]

The subdivider will provide utility easements as requested by MDU and YVEC and show them on the face of the plat. **(Condition #4)**

G. Does the proposed plat provide legal and physical access to each parcel within the subdivision and notation of that access on the plat? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (d) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.c.]

Legal and physical access is provided to the proposed lots from Copper Sunset Drive, Copper View Way and Copper Bluffs.

CONCLUSIONS OF FINDINGS OF FACT

- The preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 7th Filing does not create any adverse impacts that warrant denial of the subdivision.
- The proposed subdivision conforms to several of the goals and policies of the 2016 Growth Policy and does not conflict with the Transportation or Bikeway/Trail Plans.
- The proposed subdivision complies with state and local subdivision regulations, local zoning, and sanitary requirements and provides legal and physical access to each lot.
- Any potential negative or adverse impacts will be mitigated with the proposed conditions of approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Board recommend conditional approval of the preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 7th Filing to the City Council, and adopt the Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report.